

Salisbury, North Carolina  
January 16, 2018

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Al Heggins, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem David Post; Council Members William Brian Miller and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Diane Gilmore, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Karen Alexander

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Heggins at 5:00 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Heggins led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Heggins welcomed all visitors present.

## **PROCLAMATION**

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	January 15, 2018
RUTH BOOKER DAY	January 16, 2018
FOOD LION 60 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY	January 16, 2018
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK	January 29 – February 3, 2018

## **PROCLAMATION RUTH BOOKER**

Mayor Heggins read and presented a Proclamation to Ms. Ruth Booker in honor of her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **RECOGNITION FOOD LION**

Mayor Heggins read and presented a framed copy of the Proclamation honoring Food Lion's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary to Food Lion's Vice President of Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs Teross Young. Councilmember Sheffield noted Mr. Young is also the Mayor of Troutman, North Carolina.

Mr. Young stated Food Lion celebrated its 60th anniversary of operation on December 12, 2017. He spoke about events held to commemorate Food Lion's milestone anniversary. He commended the City of Salisbury for its continuous partnership with Food Lion and presented each Councilmember with a book titled A Neighbor to Count , 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **(a) AT&T**

Approve a request from AT&T to place a handhole and 225 feet of innerduct in the public right-of-way adjacent to Institute Street in accordance with Section 11-24.(27) of the City Code.

### **(b) Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Taskforce Appointments**

Appoint Ms. Raemi Evans and Ms. Barbara Perry to the Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Project Task Force.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Post seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

## **RECOGNITION OF RETIRED SALISBURY POLICE OFFICERS**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes recognized Captain Sheila Lingle for 30 years of service to the Salisbury Police Department and her outstanding leadership to the department and community. He stated Ms. Lingle was one of Salisbury's first female captains, and he noted Ms. Lingle previously served the department as a detective. He noted Ms. Lingle's efforts were critical to the 100 % homicide resolution rate in 2017.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to authorize issuing retired Captain Sheila Lingle her sidearm and badge. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

Police Chief Jerry Stokes recognized Lieutenant Jeffrey Wilkerson for 20 years of service to the Salisbury Police Department and for his many accomplishments. He noted Lt. Wilkerson's insight helped enhance the Police Department's relationship with the community.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to authorize issuing retired Lieutenant Jeffrey Wilkerson his sidearm and badge. Mayor Pro Tem Post seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

Police Chief Jerry Stokes recognized Officer Annice Chunn for 10 years of service to the Salisbury Police Department and for her outstanding connection to the community. He noted Ms. Chunn served as the Community Relations Officer and leaves a legacy through her community engagement and policing.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to authorize issuing retired Officer Annice Chunn her sidearm and badge. Councilmember Sheffield seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

Chief Jerry Stokes read and presented Ms. Chunn with a plaque from the Salisbury Police Department.

Police Chief Jerry Stokes recognized Officer Bradford Jordan for 30 years of service to the Salisbury Police Department and for his accomplishments and noble service. He added Officer Jordan is a trustworthy, reliable and capable police officer who is well respected by his peers.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to authorize issuing retired Officer Bradford Jordan his sidearm and badge. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

### **UPDATE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Mayor Heggins presented Council a copy of a publication by the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Government (SOG) titled Suggested Rules of Procedure for a City Council. Mayor Heggins asked Council to select a committee to make changes to the Rules of Procedure for Council meetings. Councilmember Miller indicated Councilmember Alexander shared interest to serve on the committee.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to appoint Mayor Heggins and Councilmember Alexander to a committee to review the Rules of Procedures for City Council meetings. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

Councilmember Sheffield requested City Clerk Diane Gilmore and Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Baker be involved in the committee meetings. Ms. Gilmore and Ms. Baker agreed to participate in the meetings.

### **PRESENTATION – 2017 BLOCKWORK PROJECT**

Community Appearance Commission (CAC) Chair Diane Hundley provided Council a presentation on the Blockwork project that took place October 28, 2017. She recognized Housing Advocacy Commission Chair (HAC) Barbara Perry and members of the HAC who were in the audience. She recognized Councilmember Sheffield, as a previous member of the CAC who now serves as a Council liaison to the CAC board, and staff liaison Urban Planner Alyssa Nelson and she thanked them for their work on the project.

Ms. Hundley stated the 2017 Blockwork project was held in the 700 and 800 blocks of North Lee Street. She noted the Blockwork program is in its seventh year of providing community service. She stated this year's Blockwork service included building six handicap access ramps, tree removal, general cleanup, fence installation, facade repairs, painting, landscaping, tree planting and a mural. She commended volunteers, sponsors, and City staff for their work on the project. She stated community residents were involved in the planning process. She noted each year the CAC and HAC work with art committees to select pieces of art for Blockwork projects.

Mayor Heggins thanked Ms. Hundley for the Blockwork update and her service to the community.

### **UPDATE– EMPIRE HOTEL PROJECT**

Downtown Salisbury, Inc. Director Larissa Harper and Planning Director Janet Gapen provided Council with an update on the Empire Hotel project. Ms. Harper noted the project is in its development stage and will include 62 market-rate apartments on the upper level floors and commercial units at street level. She noted a parking study was completed during December that identified 65 parking spaces for the facility, and she added an economic impact study will be completed by a third party in January 2018. She reviewed the open house tour held in October that was well attended, and she noted the landmark pre-application was approved by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in December.

Mayor Heggins asked about a timeline regarding the financial status of the Empire Hotel project. Mr. Britt Weaver, developer for the Empire Project, explained the project is ready to submit the final architectural drawings to the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency.

Councilmember Miller clarified the project development process includes steps to determine final cost, plans, and specifications, and he noted this project is a long-term transaction.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if the new tax credit bill set forth by the United States Congress affected the tax credits pertaining to the Empire Hotel. Mr. Weaver stated only Federal tax credits were affected. He noted both the House and Senate bill support the Historic Tax Credit in the program. He noted a change regarding the tax credit equality broker, and he added tax credits require the credits to be used within a five year window.

Mayor Heggins commended former Mayor Susan Kluttz on her actions to reinstate the State Historic Tax Credit.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if the 10% to 15% tax credit increase will affect the financial development of the Empire Hotel project and if compensation adjustments would need to be considered. Mr. Weaver stated the tax credit increases are not definite and are only projections made by tax credit brokers. He noted if an increase in taxes occurred it would not impact the Empire Hotel project.

Ms. Harper commented the economic impact study should conclude in January and staff will report to Council in February. Ms. Gapen indicated additional public forums and information sessions will be available in the future. She referenced a website is available to the public at [www.empiresalisbury.com](http://www.empiresalisbury.com) to provide project updates. She noted the Planning Department will host community outreach sessions in February to gain citizen feedback, and additional tours will also be provided to the public.

Mayor Heggins asked if communities had been selected for the outreach sessions. Ms. Gapen stated outreach session locations have not been determined, and she added staff would like the sessions to be held in different quadrants of the City. Mayor Heggins inquired about the involvement of downtown business owners in the proceedings. Ms. Harper replied the merchants are involved in discussions, tours, and help provide input for the project.

Councilmember Miller indicated there is a need for store variety in the downtown business area. Mr. Weaver stated Black Point Investments will have commercial space in the Empire Hotel project that will be available to all interested businesses.

Councilmember Miller asked if a third-party, outside the Salisbury district, would perform the economic impact study. Ms. Gapen confirmed the analysis would be conducted by a third-party that is outside the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if research has been conducted to determine interest in the available rental space. Mr. Weaver stated he has spoken with the community members and business owners regarding potential rental space clients and has had several show interest in the property. He noted he is not accepting letters of intent at this time because it will not benefit the project, business owners, or the City. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked about the feedback on potential below ground and mezzanine level rental spaces. Mr. Weaver commented that with most historic projects the exterior features are what earns most of the tax credit. He noted the Empire Hotel project includes interior features and the developers have considered the unique rental space that the project offers.

Ms. Gapen stated Development Planning and Financing Group, Inc. will perform the impact study. She noted the company has national offices and their North Carolina office is located in the Research Triangle Area of Chapel Hill. Councilmember Miller recognized the importance of having a non-biased group perform the study, and he commended staff for its work on the project.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Heggins opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Vick Bost commented that he practices law in Salisbury, and he congratulated Mayor Heggins for being awarded Newsmaker of the year by the *Salisbury Post*. He recognized local artists for their positive impact on the community. He presented Mayor Heggins with a framed illustration.

Ms. Levonia Corry stated she is a member of Millstone Missionary Baptist Church. She read and presented Mayor Heggins a plaque for the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Service Award. Mayor Heggins recognized Pastor Latasha Wilkes as a recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Service Award.

Mr. George Benson read sections of City Ordinance 14-46 and 51 that pertained to excessive noise, and he noted a commercial garbage company collects at 4:30 a.m. near his home.

Mr. Geoffrey Hoy thanked Council for adding the election process review to the agenda.

Mr. Tenkomenin Crowder stated he is confused about the election process. He commented the City's election process and the United States constitution is out-of-date.

Ms. Ollie Carroll expressed concerns regarding the date of Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Parade, and she noted her past involvement with the Veterans Memorial Hospital MLK Day parade. She asked Council to work with the Human Relations Council to consider having the MLK Day Parade on the third Monday of January with efforts to provide more opportunities for the public to participate.

Ms. M.T. Sidoli requested the Empire Hotel development consider providing low income housing at its property. She commended Council for adding a moment of silence to the agenda.

Ms. Carolyn Logan shared concerns regarding crime in the City and the City's water.

Mr. Mike Kirksey expressed his opposition regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade route. He also expressed concerns about local business hiring practices and Fibrant.

Ms. Liliana Spears thanked Council for adding the moment of silence and for involving the Hispanic community. She asked Council to provide feedback regarding concerns expressed during public comment.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Heggins closed the public comment session.

### **UPDATE – POLICE CHIEF**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes reviewed the Police Department's mission and vision, and he reviewed Police Department staffing. He noted the Police Department has five retiring officers from December 2017 to January 2018. He pointed out the Police Department has a total of 12 vacancies. He shared that nine officers are currently in field training. He noted the Police Department has a total of 13 nonoperational vacancies. He shared nine people will move into the Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program by February 2018. He commented he anticipates hiring two officers in February 2018. He announced the Police Department should be fully staffed by the end of February or first of March 2018.

Mayor Heggins asked if 4 of the 12 vacant positions included retirements. Chief Stokes agreed. Mayor Heggins asked for clarification regarding the other eight positions. Chief Stokes commented the positions were not filled in 2017. Mayor Heggins asked if there was any data included in presentation regarding retention and attrition. Chief Stokes replied he could provide the information at the next update.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked for clarification regarding the decline of participants in the North Carolina Police Academy. Chief Stokes stated the number of participants seems to be increasing and there seems to be more than enough interest in the BLET program offered at Rowan Cabarrus Community College.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if the unplanned medical leave was budgeted. Chief Stokes stated he was given authority by City Manager Lane Bailey to hire offices as needed.

Chief Stokes shared a year-end crime comparison report from 2016-2017, and he pointed out total violent crime is down approximately 14 %. He noted a need for more focus on robberies. He shared that the total violent property crime is 6% down overall.

Councilmember Miller asked if the reporting was standardized throughout North Carolina and the United States. Chief Stokes stated the Police Department is following uniform crime reporting standards.

Mayor Heggins asked if uniform crime reporting is mandatory. Chief Stokes replied it is mandatory to receive Federal funding.

Councilmember Miller asked about traffic enforcement within the Police Department. Chief Stokes replied the Salisbury Police Department is a full service law enforcement agency that investigates traffic accidents, enforces traffic laws and all criminal enforcement activity.

Chief Stoke introduced Ms. Candace Edwards as the new Project Safe Neighborhood Coordinator. Ms. Edwards thanked Council for recognizing the need for this position in the City of Salisbury.

## **RECESS**

Mayor Heggins made a **motion** to take a five minute recess and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Post. All Councilmembers in attendance agreed unanimously to recess.

The meeting reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

## **REQUEST – NAMING OF THE FUTURE FIRE STATION 6**

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to establish a thirty-day period for public input to name the future Fire Station 6 as the Justin Monroe and Vic Isler Salisbury Fire Station. Mayor Pro Tem Post seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

Fire Chief Bob Parnell addressed Council regarding the request to name the future Fire Station 6, at 310 Cedar Springs Road. He noted the name selected is in honor and memory of fallen firefighters Justin Monroe and Vic Isler who died in the line of duty on March 7, 2008. He noted Fire Station 6 would be the first fire station constructed since their passing. Chief Parnell stated the City of Salisbury's Fire Department would be honored to announce the naming of the Fire Station on March 7, 2018, during a memorial service to honor the friends and families of Justin Monroe and Vic Isler. He commented this year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their passing. He explained City policy requires a special committee to meet regarding the naming of the future Fire Station 6 to provide comments to Council. He noted the Fireman's Relief Fund Board will serve in this capacity.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to refer public input to the Fireman Relief Fund Board to discuss the naming of the future Fire Station 6 as the Justin Monroe and Vic Isler Salisbury Fire Station. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REVIEW – ELECTION PROCESS**

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked Council to establish a committee to discuss possible changes in the election process pertaining to the Mayor's seat. He noted he would like Council to receive public comments by holding public hearings within the City.

Mayor Heggins asked Mayor Pro Tem Post if his focus for change is only for the Mayoral race and if he has considered establishing wards or districts. Mayor Pro Tem Post stated he would like to receive public and professional comments regarding the entire election process. Mayor



Heggins asked if the public could serve on the committee. Councilmember Miller recognized most Council appointed committees do not involve public membership, and he noted the public is always involved in the entire process. Mayor Heggins commented she would like to include the public and consider different processes. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked City Attorney Rivers Lawther for a suggestion. Mr. Lawther commented that Council recommendations would need to be considered, and he agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Post that Council should appoint members. He commented public applications could be accepted by lottery. Councilmember Miller recognized that the public hearing could be conducted as a town hall preceding. He clarified when Council committees were appointed in the past, the public and its comments were always welcomed. Mayor Heggins asked Council to consider opening the election committee to the public.

Councilmember Sheffield agreed the election process should be opened to the public, and she suggested members of Council not select election committee members due to conflict of interest. She commented the annual retreat could be an option to start the process of the committee.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to appoint a committee to review the City's election process with specifics of the committee to be discussed at the Annual Goal Setting Retreat. Councilmember Sheffield seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REVIEW – SPECIAL EVENT COMMITTEE**

Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to pull the Special Event Committee and its report off the table so Council can work from the document it previously created.

Mayor Heggins requested clarification, and she noted the idea is to reconvene the committee to review the issues that have been brought forth.

Councilmember Miller asked for clarification on reconvening or reestablishing the Special Event Committee. Councilmember Sheffield suggested reconvening the Special Event Committee, and she pointed out a lot of good work had previously taken place.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to reconvene the Special Event Committee and to consider its scope of work in regards to Special Event Permits and free speech. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION – ANNUAL RETREAT**

Mayor Heggins asked Council to consider scheduling one and a half days for the annual retreat. She added a date has not been established for the retreat at this time. She suggested the first day be used to invite the public to provide their input regarding the visioning process of the City. She stated the half day could be used for a closed session.

Councilmember Miller stated the normal process is for Council to discuss the items and nothing is approved until it is brought before Council to receive public input. He noted the retreat is typically a fully packed agenda day. He explained a lot of details are provided at the retreat and staff takes the information and formats it into a goal setting document that includes the most important information and strategies to help Council accomplish the City's goals.

Mayor Heggins commented previous retreats were staff driven. She asked if more staff operational items were discussed versus goal setting by Council at previous retreats. City Manager Lane Bailey replied both items were discussed at past retreats. He clarified, traditionally, Council could vote on priorities for staff to organize, and he noted staff could present the items to Council for review and approval.

Councilmember Miller stated staff would normally implement the goals developed by Council at its retreat. He encouraged Council to rely on the current talent at its goal setting retreat.

Mayor Heggins suggested the retreat be Council driven instead of staff driven. She stated when communicating with the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), North Carolina School of Government (SOG), and members at the Mayor's Conference it was noted when lead by staff, Council loses its opportunity to lead. She shared the need for balance between Council, staff, and the public. Councilmember Miller stated previous goals have been set according to the priorities that exist.

Councilmember Sheffield asked how citizens were given the opportunity to provide input during past retreats. Councilmember Miller stated there were citizens in attendance at the retreats in the past.

Mayor Pro Tem Post agreed Council should set the vision of the annual retreat and not staff.

Thereupon, Mayor Heggins made a **motion** to have a one-day and a half retreat, four hours for the public, four hours for staff, and four hours for the budget and a closed session if necessary. Mayor Pro Tem Post seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. Councilmember Miller voted NAY. (3-1)

### **COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENT PROJECT SAFE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

City Manager Lane Bailey clarified the Project Safe Board has a vacant Council liaison seat, and he noted Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell held the previous Council liaison position for many years. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked about the board's meeting date. Chief Stokes indicated the meetings take place the first Thursday of every other month and the next meeting scheduled is March at noon. He noted called meetings would begin at 11:00 a.m. Mayor Pro Tem Post announced he would serve on the Project Safe Board.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to appoint Mayor Pro Tem David Post to serve on the Project Safe Executive board as Council Liaison. Councilmember Sheffield

seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Post discussed an email he sent to Mayor Heggins regarding the Community Action Agency. Mayor Pro Tem Post stated a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and lawyer are needed to serve on the board. Mayor Heggins asked Mayor Pro Tem Post if he could provide his working service as a CPA and attorney. Mayor Pro Tem Post stated as with any board, he serves in an advisory capacity. Mayor Heggins asked what role Council liaisons serve to boards and commissions.

Mayor Heggins asked Council to consider tabling this item until further discussion is had pertaining to the applicants.

## **CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

### **(a) Update – Quality of Drinking Water**

City Manager Lane Bailey commended employees for their hard work during the frigid temperatures and water main breaks. He introduced Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer. Mr. Behmer introduced Water Treatment Plant Chemist Alan Fowler. Mr. Behmer stated an asbestos cement pipe (AC pipe) was the preferred choice of material in the 1960s and 1970s. He stated the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned its use because of pipe materials, mining, and production. He stated the AC pipes makeup 15% to 20% of United States water distribution lines and noted Salisbury has 10.5% of AC pipes. He stated the estimated life span of an AC pipe is 50 to 70 years and they pose no threat of contamination because they are underground. Mr. Behmer commented on recent water main breaks and noted no AC pipes were involved in those breaks. He commented replacement of AC water pipes would pose more threat to workers due to the inhalation during the construction process.

Salisbury-Rowan Treatment plant chemist Alan Fowler stated the EPA sets maximum contaminant levels, and according to EPA that level is 7x10 microliters fibers per liter. He noted SRU is on a nine year monitoring plan, and in 2012 one asbestos fiber was collected during a million sample. He clarified one fiber equals 10 fibers per liter and is well under the EPA standard. He commented samples are taken from the county and East Spencer treatment plants. He noted SRU also performs test samples including, Escherichia (E. coli), Coliform bacteria, metals and other non-compliant monitoring samples. He stated certified water treatment operators are on site 24 hours a day, 7 days per week and water test samples are taken every 15 minutes.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Mr. Fowler for the presentation and for his help in keeping the water clean. She asked if the nine year samples are taken in-house. He explained SRU facility contracts the testing to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). Mr. Behmer commented that municipalities have higher regulations than water

bottling companies.

Councilmember Miller asked if asbestos poses a concern to the water system. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Behmer replied it does not.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(a) 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Father/ Daughter Dance**

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced the Parks and Recreation department will host the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Father/Daughter Dance for girls ages 4 to 13 and their fathers on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. There will be entertainment, dancing, snacks, games and door prizes. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at any of the four recreation facilities. For more information please call 704-216-PLAY.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Sheffield asked if staff could provide a Fibrant update at Council meetings. City Manager Bailey replied a Fibrant update could be provided. He noted a referendum may take place this spring, and he commented he will meet with the State Treasurer to discuss thereferendum process.

Councilmember Sheffield commended previous Councilmembers for their efforts to make Council meetings more accessible to the public. She read a list of starting times for surrounding cities and asked Council to review its meeting start time, revisit the sign-in process and she suggested the meetings include greeters. She thanked the Public Services department and all staff who helped during the cold weather and with the water main breaks.

Mayor Pro Tem Post stated he recently visited Salisbury High School. He commented many students have no internet access at home, and he asked Council to consider providing Wi-Fi access in the West End area.

City Manager Bailey distributed a copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to Council.

## **MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Post commented about a competition called Hackathon that could engage community members with collaborative computer programming events and experience. He referenced a possible angel fund that is available for vacant downtown buildings that include local banks, and he added he would like Council to consider those opportunities.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Heggins thanked all those who attended the meeting. She commended the Public Services and Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) staff for their support with the water main breaks during the cold temperatures. She recognized Ms. Donna Odrosky and her concern regarding Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Pride Flag (PFlag) comments made at Councils December 5, 2017 meeting and she stated she has not forgotten it. She thanked Council for everything it is doing.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Thereupon Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). Councilmember Sheffield seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

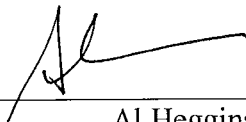
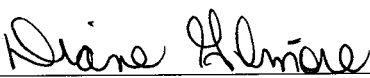
## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Thereupon Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to return to open session. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

Mayor Heggins reported no action was taken during the closed session meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Post seconded by Councilmember Miller. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

  
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Al Heggins, Mayor  
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Diane Gilmore, City Clerk